

II when I served in the Navy, he was Commander in Chief at that time. In his dedication speech, in 1951, in a memorial to these four brave men, he said:

This interfaith shrine will stand through long generations to teach Americans that as men can die heroically as brothers, so should they live together in mutual faith and good will.

These words are as important today as they were 51 years ago. The Senate is indeed privileged to have this distinguished American before us today.

This has been an unusual week for me in the sense that on Monday I attended the funeral services at Arlington of Corporal Matthew Commons, U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, who lost his life just a few days ago in Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan. Last night, I delivered a eulogy on behalf of an old friend in Virginia, an African American who served aboard the carrier *Yorktown* and was in 11 major engagements in World War II. His name was Richard Hall. He worked with me down in Virginia for these many years, and was a dearly beloved friend.

In the last 2 weeks, America experienced approximately nine deaths in Operation Anaconda. But I reflected last night, as I do briefly this morning, on the history of two battles which took place 70-some-odd years ago. Let's see, it was 16 December 1944 to 19 January 1945—the Battle of the Bulge. I mention this because we, the United States, suffered about 41,000 casualties in that battle: Killed in action, 4,000; wounded, 20,000; missing, 17,000; all occurring in 35 days of fighting. That was in Europe.

In the Pacific, where Richard Hall served in so many conflicts, the Battle of Iwo Jima was fought over 36 days from 19 February to 26 March 1945. I remind America we had 26,000 casualties: Killed in action, 6,800; wounded, 19,200. I also remind America of the enormous service these men and women have given this Nation. Today we can stand and share in the freedom provided by the members of our Armed Forces. This freedom is predicated on the sacrifices, be it by CPL Matthew Commons 10 days ago, or in those two battles of World War II. We must be ever mindful of the service of men and women in the Armed Forces throughout our history that makes possible our life today.

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to address the Senate.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 9:30. The time until 9:30 is under the control of Senator ALLEN of Virginia.

At 9:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the energy reform bill. There will be debate only until 11:30 in relation to ethanol. That time will be under the control of Senator NELSON of Nebraska and Senator BOND of Missouri or their designees.

At 11:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the Levin CAFE amendment, with 20 minutes of closing debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment.

Following disposition of the Levin amendment, Senator MILLER will offer his amendment regarding pickup trucks, with 10 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to that amendment.

Following disposition of the Miller amendment, Senators KERRY or SNOWE or their designees will be recognized to offer an amendment regarding CAFE.

We hope to dispose of all the matters of fuel efficiency regarding motor vehicles today. We hope we can move on to other important matters on this bill.

As was spoken on the floor yesterday, the majority leader intends to finish this bill by next Friday. During that period of time, we also have to dispose of the campaign finance bill. There is a lot to do. We would ask those Senators who have amendments dealing with this important energy legislation to come and offer them because that time may run out quicker than they think.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 9:30 a.m., with the time to be under the control of the Senator from Virginia, Mr. ALLEN.

HIGH-TECH TASK FORCE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak about the Senate Republican high-tech task force. Today is an important day for our high-tech task force, as we are unveiling our policy agenda and principles for the upcoming session and the rest of the year.

First, I express my gratitude to Senator REID and Senator DASCHLE for allowing us this half hour of time to address our colleagues on the very important issue of technology and the policy issues that we have faced, are facing, and will face this year.

The purpose of the high-tech task force is to advise Republican leadership and, hopefully, others on the other side of the aisle on issues important to the technology community. We look at ourselves as a portal to the technology innovators and entrepreneurs to get their ideas and messages to the Senate so that we are well informed as to the impact of any potential changes in laws, or there may be laws that are outdated and need to be updated or upgraded.

The advancement of technology in the United States is important. It is

important for our quality of life, for our competitiveness as a nation. It is also very important for providing good-paying jobs for Americans.

Technology improvements benefit our lives and our businesses and our competitiveness in many ways. For example, in manufacturing, it allows manufacturers to manufacture whatever the good or product is, more efficiently, with greater quality, with less waste, and fewer toxins. In a distribution center, if you went to a Dollar Tree or a Family Dollar or Dollar General distribution center, you would see how they use technology to pick different items for their various stores and then loading them on trucks.

Technological improvements help our communications systems within our country. It also helps education opportunities, life sciences, and biological advancements that are allowing people to lead better, healthier, longer lives. It can help in law enforcement and coordination of law enforcement efforts at the State, local, and national level. And it can provide for a better transportation system with smart roads and smart cars, and the concept of telecommunicating, teleworking, allowing people to have a better quality of life while not having to fight traffic every day and have more time with their families.

It improves in so many ways our quality of life, our efficiency, and also our environment. On the high-tech task force, in addition to myself, I am joined on the task force by Senators ALLARD, BENNETT, BROWNBACK, BURNS, COLLINS, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, ENSIGN, SESSIONS, and GORDON SMITH, as well as ex officio members who are the ranking members of the various important committees that deal with technology, including the Armed Services Committee with JOHN WARNER, Banking Committee, PHIL GRAMM; Senator MCCAIN of Commerce; Senator GRASSLEY of Finance, and Senator ORRIN HATCH, a great leader of our Judiciary Committee.

We had many accomplishments last year. The education bill was an important one. No child left behind. Education is the key—making sure we have a capable population in our country so youngsters can seize the opportunities not just of the silicon domination of Virginia, but technology jobs all across the country. That was a very important bill. The clean 2-year extension of the Internet access tax moratorium was important. I don't think there should be access taxes on the Internet, but we were able to get a 2-year extension to prevent Internet taxes, which would only exacerbate the digital divide.

We also passed the Export Administration Act in the Senate. We updated those laws so computers can be sold from this country as opposed to other countries getting them from France, Germany, or Japan. We can compete. The House has a different view.

There was a proposed merger of ASML, a Dutch company, with SBG,